

What is claimed is:

1. An absorbent pad for use in food processing or storage, comprising:
an upper sheet comprising a surface configured to place food material on;
a lower sheet;
an absorbent material layer placed between the upper and lower sheets; and
the absorbent material layer comprising pulp and at least one absorbent resin,
wherein the at least one absorbent resin is in one or more forms selected from the
group consisting of fiber, powder and granules.
2. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent material layer further
comprises an antibacterial agent in an amount from about 0.1 to about 5% of a total weight
of the absorbent material layer.
3. The absorbent pad of Claim 2, wherein the antibacterial agent is selected
from the group consisting of a chitosan and a chitosan-silver mixture.
4. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent material layer further
comprises a thermally active fiber, wherein two or more pieces of the at least one absorbent
material are connected via one or more pieces of the thermally modifiable fiber.
5. The absorbent pad of Claim 4, wherein the thermally active fiber is in an
amount from about 5 to about 50% of a total weight of the absorbent material layer.
6. The absorbent pad of Claim 4, wherein the thermally active fiber comprises
two or more component resins, and wherein the two or more component resins have
substantially different melting points from one another.
7. The absorbent pad of Claim 4, wherein the thermally active fiber has one or
more forms selected from the group consisting of a sheath-core configuration, a side-by-
side configuration and a islands-in-the-sea configuration.

8. The absorbent pad of Claim 4, wherein the thermally active fiber comprise two or more component resins selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resin (PE), polyester resin (PET), polypropylene resin (PP) and modified polyester resin (modified PET).

9. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the at least one absorbent resin is selected from the group consisting of a cross-linked sodium acrylate copolymer, a starch graft copolymer, a cross-linked carboxymethyl cellulose derivative and a modified hydrophilic acrylate resin.

10. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein either of the upper and lower sheets is in a form selected from the group consisting of a perforated mesh film, a waterproof film and a non-woven fabric.

11. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper and lower sheets comprises an antibacterial agent in an amount from about 0.1 to about 0.3 % of a total weight of the lower sheet.

12. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein a substantial part of the at least one absorbent material is arranged as extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a plane of the surface of the upper sheet or a plane of a surface of the lower sheet.

13. The absorbent pad of Claim 12, wherein the substantial part constitutes about 5% or more of a total weight of the at least one absorbent material.

14. The absorbent pad of Claim 12, wherein the planes of the surfaces of the upper and lower sheets are substantially parallel.

15. The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent resin is in an amount from about 5 to about 50% of a total weight of the absorbent material layer.

16. A method of absorbing liquid from food, comprising:

providing the absorbent pad of Claim 1;

placing a food material on the surface of the upper sheet of the absorbent pad; and

absorbing liquid exuded from the food material with the absorbent pad.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent material layer further comprises an antibacterial agent in an amount from about 0.1 to about 5% of a total weight of the absorbent material layer.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent material layer further comprises a thermally active fiber, and wherein two or more pieces of the at least one absorbent material are connected via one or more pieces of the thermally modifiable fiber.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein the thermally active fiber has one or more forms selected from the group consisting of a sheath-core configuration, a side-by-side configuration and a islands-in-the-sea configuration, and wherein the thermally active fiber comprises two or more component resins selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resin (PE), polyester resin (PET), polypropylene resin (PP) and modified polyester resin (modified PET).

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the at least one absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a cross-linked sodium acrylate copolymer, a starch graft copolymer, a cross-linked carboxymethyl cellulose derivative and a modified hydrophilic acrylate resin.